# Pressures to Streamline and Reinvent Government

- Control/Reduce Costs
- Reduce Staff
- Limited Appropriations
- Vice President Gore NPR
- Government Performance and Results Act
- Good Business



### PROJECT GOAL

To improve the administration of Federal Grants through the use of Electronic Commerce (EC) and to support business process re-engineering.

Specifically, we intend to eliminate paper in the exchange of information between Federal agencies and the grantee community as well as among Federal agencies.

#### **KEY BENEFITS - TO RECIPIENTS**

- Improve the standardization of: policies, data, and technologies used to administer grants (provide a common face)
- Reduce to the extent possible the time between application & award
- Obtain status more effectively throughout the grant life-cycle

## KEY BENEFITS - TO RECIPIENTS - continued

- Reduce the time and control the costs associated with application preparation
- Provide better management of the grant process
- Reduce redundancy in submission of administrative information
- Retain flexibility in the means to exchange data

# KEY BENEFITS - TO FEDERAL AGENCIES

- Reduce cost and time associated with the review, award, and administration of grants
- Provide more complete and accurate data from which to manage grants
- Provide better stewardship over the public's investment in research and education
- Reduce redundancy of information

#### GRANTS EC PROJECT TEAM

- Dept. of Education
- Dept. of Energy
- Dept. of Health & Human Services
  - National Inst. of Health
- Dept. of Transportation
  - Federal Aviation Adm.
  - Federal Rail Adm...
- Environ. Protect. Agcy
- National Science Fndn.

- National Aeronautics & Space Adm.
- US Air Force Office of Scientific Research
- US Army
  - Army Med. Research& Mat. Command
  - Army Research Office
- US Navy Office of Naval Research

The Logistics Management Institute provides technical support

#### INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

- Federal Research Managers Group (FRMG) Operates at the senior executive level to share information and identify common issues
- Business Practices Working Group (BPWG) Operates at grants management level to identify and address specific measures to streamline grants administration
- *EC Committee* Operates as a subgroup to the BPWG to implement EC for grants administration

### BUSINESS PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING

The significant alteration of a business function to improve quality, productivity, and performance. Change can be in the form of revised: organization, procedures, training, etc. Improved automation and other technical innovations are frequently involved.

EC is frequently a key component of a re-engineering effort through utilization of its many enabling technologies.

#### The EC TOOL KIT

- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
- Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW)
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- E-Mail
- Data bases and data warehouses
- Other automation software (spread-sheets, word processors, functional systems, etc.)
- Electronic storage media such as CD-Rom
- Input devices (e.g., barcode readers, scanners)
- Digital imaging

#### FLEXIBLE APPROACH

Federal agencies will **support both** EDI and Web-Page approaches to exchange grant data. Other technologies within the EC toolkit will also be used as appropriate.

Agencies will continue to support paper as needed for the present, but are moving towards a paperless future.

## FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

• A formal collaboration of several Federal research agencies and numerous research institutions to increase the productivity and reduce the administrative burden of Federally supported research & education. The FDP will be a focus point of tests and demonstrations of re-engineered processes

#### PROGRESS TO DATE

- Published EC Project Plan (available on WWW.NSF.GOV)
- Developed cross-agency data dictionary for the grant application
- Developed new EDI transaction set (194) to transmit a grant application

#### AGENCY EC INITIATIVES

- Expand FDP testing and move toward full implementation of application exchange
- Develop multi-agency web-based processes
  - On-line status
  - Applications
- Develop a database of organizational profile information
- Continue recipient outreach

## AGENCY EC INITIATIVES - continued

- Define data requirements for additional standards
  - Progress Reporting
  - Announcements (solicitation)
- Develop capability for electronic invoicing and funds transfer
  - ONR

#### LONG-TERM GOAL

Expand, carefully, the number of:

- Organizations (agency & recipient) participating in EC
- Business functions supported by EC operations until the entire grant life-cycle has been streamlined and converted to EC
- Re-engineered internal processes

#### KILL THE PAPER!!!

#### **CONCLUSION**

The agencies involved in the Grants EC project are starting a journey. We are leaving the world of paper as the means of conducting business and entering the "electronic highway".

Our trip will be evolutionary not revolutionary. It will be long and may contain many course corrections, but we are on the way.

We want you to come along, not just in the journey itself, but also in forming its direction and path.